

Branch REVIEW



OCTOBER 2017



National Night Out

Neighborhood gatherings planned for October 3



FBTX ~ Inviting neighbors to spend the evening outdoors with others, Farmers Branch Community Watch has announced that National Night Out will be observed locally on Tuesday, October 3.

The Farmers Branch Police Department is asking neighborhoods planning block or backyard parties to register their event by calling 972.919.9304. Police and Fire Department personnel along with City officials will make the rounds to as many registered parties as possible.

Farmers Branch mobilizes resources to assist Texas cities after Hurricane Harvey

FBTX ~ As unimaginable rainfall continued to pound the Texas coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Farmers Branch was among many Texas cities that mobilized resources to assist in rescue and recovery efforts.

Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker also serves as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator. "The City of Farmers Branch has deployed a reserve fire engine, staffed with four firefighters to Rockport to assist with rescue efforts," he said. "Rockport took a direct hit and, as most fire companies in the area are volunteer, they are in dire need of assistance."

Chief Parker said the four firefighters are Captain Mike Campbell, Driver Chad Brown, Firefighter Kory Boyer and Firefighter Adam Burks.

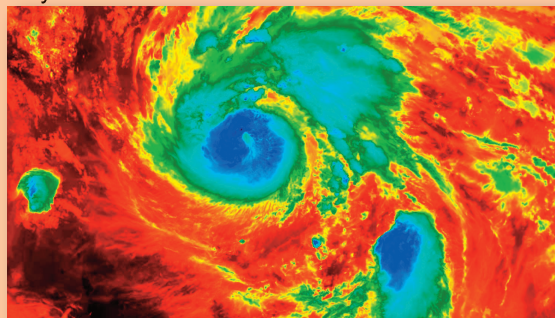
City Manager Charles Cox added that Farmers Branch would be providing law enforcement support at the Dallas Convention Center megashelter. The Parks and Recreation Department was also providing personnel for logistical support.

In addition, Farmers Branch Detention Officer Andrew Heike and Firefighter/Paramedic Terry Evans have been activated for National Guard duties on the coast.

Mr. Cox added that the deployment of personnel would not affect service levels in Farmers Branch at all. Records will be kept in order to apply for reimbursement from available federal disaster funds.

Farmers Branch Emergency Management Specialist Lauren Sanchez said that Farmers Branch hotels reported more than 800 Houston-area evacuees checked in locally.

Farmers Branch-based Metrocrest Services was leading relief efforts, and were asking for donations of funding, food, household and hygiene items. Visit metrocrest-services.org or call 972.446.2100 for updates on current needs.



Harvey was the first category 4 hurricane to make a continental U.S. landfall in 12 years.



Farmers Branch Firefighter Kory Boyer and Captain Mike Campbell work to secure a downed power line in Rockport.

District Town Hall Meetings on Bond Election continue

FBTX ~ Mayor Robert Dye and members of the City Council will host District Town Hall Meetings in September and October to foster conversation about the bond election along with other activity in Farmers Branch. The full slate includes:

KICKOFF MEETING

SEP 14 @ City Hall @ 7 pm

DISTRICT 1 | Ana Reyes

SEP 21 @ StarCenter @ 7 pm

DISTRICT 2 | Bronson Blackson

SEP 28 @ Library @ 7 pm

DISTRICT 3 | John Norwood

OCT 5 @ Historical Park @ 7 pm

GENERAL MTG & DISTRICT 4

OCT 18 @ Senior Center @ 1 pm

DISTRICT 5 | Mike Bomgardner

OCT 19 @ Rec Center @ 7 pm

All meetings are subject to change. Call 972.247.3131. More information on the Bond Election can be found on page 4.

Key election dates scheduled

FBTX ~ Early voting dates for the \$15 million Quality of Life Bond Election, along with registration deadline and Election Day information has been released by the Dallas County Elections Department:

Last Day to Register to Vote: **Oct 10**

Early Voting: **Oct 23 thru Nov 3**

Election Day: **November 7**

Find out more information at

dallascountyvotes.org.

Household Hazardous Waste disposal set October 14

FBTX ~ Dallas County will conduct a Household Hazardous Waste collection event on Saturday, October 14, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Service Center, 13333 Senlac Drive, just north of Valley View. Find out more at 972.247.3131.

City Council moves meeting for NNO; lists rest of year

FBTX ~ The first regular meeting of the Farmers Branch City Council in October will take place on Monday, **October 2**, in deference to National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3. The second meeting remains on the third Tuesday, that is **October 17**.

In November, the Council will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays, **November 14 and 28**.

Finally, the City Council has one scheduled meeting in December, on Tuesday, **December 12**. All meetings are subject to change. Call 972.247.3131.

Special Events on Page 3 | Bond Election on Page 4

Farmers Branch Market to close for the season

FBTX ~ After a full season that began last Spring, the Farmers Branch Market will celebrate the first Saturday with a Fall Harvest on October 7 and will close for the year on Saturday, October 28.

Lots of pumpkins and all things harvest-related will be on hand on October 7. There will be cooking demonstrations on tap for the final market October 28.



The Farmers Branch Market is open each Saturday during the season from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The eclectic list of vendors offer everything from produce and eggs to baked goods and artisan foods along with arts, crafts and more.

The Market will be open each Saturday in October through October 28 at The Grove @ Mustang Crossing at the corner of Denton Drive and Bill Moses Parkway.

More at farmersbranchmarket.com.

Firehouse Theatre to open a 'Little Shop of Horrors'

FBTX ~ One of the most popular shows ever to grace the boards of Broadway, 'Little Shop of Horrors' will be presented by the Firehouse Theatre in Farmers Branch on select nights from October 12 through October 29.

A sci-fi musical, the show centers on Seymour Krel-



born and a new loud mouth, R&B singing carnivore plant he discovers.

For info or for tickets, call 972.620.3747 or go to thefirehousetheatre.com.

Chili chefs sought for annual Cook-Off

FBTX ~ Anyone with a chili recipe is encouraged to register for the annual CASI-sanctioned Chili Cook-Off to be held Saturday, October 21 as part of the Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival & Chili Cook-Off at the Farmers Branch Historical Park. bloominbluegrass.com.

Senior Dances planned

FBTX~ Live music and friendly people make Senior Dance night one of the best in the Metroplex. Tickets are \$5.

OCT 02 Swingin' Country (Country)

OCT 09 Jim Baker (Ballroom)

OCT 16 J.C. Tippet (Country)

OCT 23 Dave Alexander (Ballroom)

OCT 30 Southern Pride (Country)

Design overhaul brings new look to City's primary website, farmersbranchtx.gov

FBTX ~ Although structurally the same, the City's main website at www.farmersbranchtx.gov has launched a new look, offering residents and businesspeople a fresh approach to a functional site.

Web stats show the main City site is visited an average of 29,000 times each month. However, the current site was launched almost four years ago.

"The re-design was a part of the deal negotiated with our web vendor, Civic Plus, more than four years ago," explained Communications Director Tom Bryson. "Therefore, this facelift did not cost the City anything."

The new-look City site will feature dramatic banner photography that will rotate on a slideshow, more prominent news features and other spotlight information on the home page.

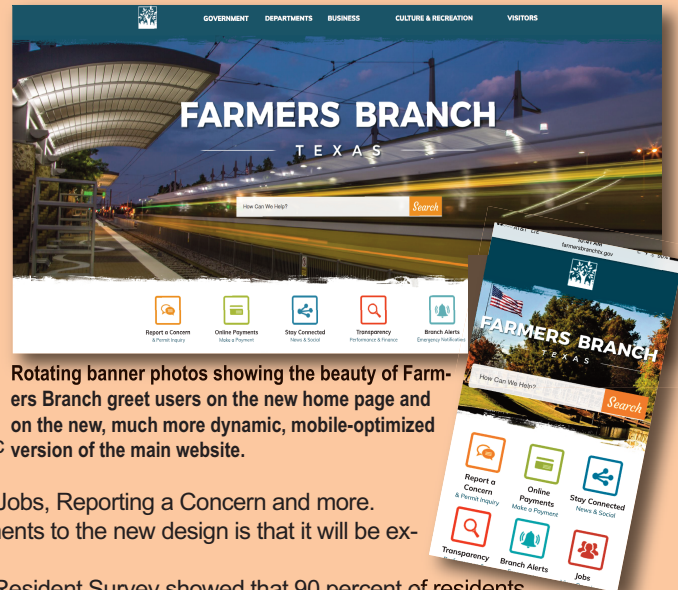
In addition, there will be a very dynamic calendar as well as graphic buttons to quickly direct users to Payments, Alerts, Jobs, Reporting a Concern and more.

Perhaps one of the greatest enhancements to the new design is that it will be extremely mobile-friendly.

Mr. Bryson noted that the most recent Resident Survey showed that 90 percent of residents were able to find information they were looking for on the website.

"However, we're after the other 10 percent," he said. "As such, a very visible search bar will appear on every page and, hopefully, take users where they need to go."

A product of eight months' work, the new-look site went live on August 31.



Rotating banner photos showing the beauty of Farmers Branch greet users on the new home page and on the new, much more dynamic, mobile-optimized version of the main website.

New westside landmark houses state-of-the-art fire training opportunities

FBTX ~ Showcasing the latest venture in regional cooperation, the fire departments of Addison, Carrollton, Coppell and Farmers Branch hosted grand opening ceremonies of their new \$2.8 million Joint Fire Training Center in August at the location, 13333 Hutton Drive in Farmers Branch.

Located adjacent to Farmers Branch Fire Department Administration and Fire Station No. 3, the state-of-the-art training center features a variety of scenario opportunities where the men and women of each department can train. They include a six-story annex with interior and exterior landing stairs and a three-story residential/commercial annex with a flat parapet roof as well as interior and exterior stairwells.

Additionally, there is a one-story residential annex with a pitch roof as well as a four-story, blind elevator shaft.

Firefighters will be able to take advantage of five burn rooms, 20 exterior window openings, a smoke generator with eight port distribution system to simulate real-world incidents, all powered by a 1,000-gallone propane fuel tank farm.

Construction costs and annual operating costs were and will be borne by each city according to the size of their department.

Farmers Branch Fire Chief Steve Parker said the new facility will be invaluable for enhancing safety for the four cities.

"Collectively, our firefighters will be able to engage in live fire training, high rise training, high angle and below grade rescue training, driver training on the 53,000 square-foot driving course and so much more," he said.

Chief Parker, along with Addison Fire Chief David Jones, Carrollton Fire Chief Greg Salmi and Coppell Fire Chief Kevin Richardson offered remarks during the program. The ceremony also featured a hose uncoupling (instead of ribbon cutting) with Addison Mayor Joe Chow, Carrollton Mayor Kevin Falconer, Coppell Mayor Karen Hunt and Farmers Branch Mayor Robert Dye.



farmersbranchtx.gov



October 7

**Fall Harvest @
Farmers Branch Market**

The Grove @ Mustang Crossing
9 am - 1 pm
farmersbranchmarket.com

Great Pumpkin Splash

Farmers Branch Aquatics Center
2 - 5 pm
Pre-register by October 4
\$5 Members | \$8 Non-Members
fbh2o.com



October 21

Celebration of Roses

Gussie Field Watterworth Pavilion
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Free Admission
fbroses.com



**Hippie to Hipster
Craft Fair**

Farmers Branch Senior Center
9 am - 4 pm
Free Admission
fbseniorcenter.com

October 14

**Live Music @
Farmers Branch Market**

The Grove @ Mustang Crossing
9 am - 1 pm
farmersbranchmarket.com



October 20 & 21

**Bloomin' Bluegrass
Festival & Chili Cook-Off**

Farmers Branch Historical Park
Friday 4:30 - 10 pm
Saturday 11:30 am - 10 pm
Free Admission
bloominbluegrass.com



October 28

**Cooking Demos @
Farmers Branch Market**

The Grove @ Mustang Crossing
9 am - 1 pm
farmersbranchmarket.com

Halloween in the Park

Farmers Branch Historical Park
5 - 10 pm
Free Park Admission
Haunted Hedge \$5 per person
(recommended for ages 9+)
fbparksandrec.com

October 13 & 14

Murders & Mayhem Tours

Farmers Branch Historical Park
5 - 7:30 pm | Tours take place
every half hour
Adults only | \$5 per person
fbhistoricalpark.com



October 24

**Haunts & Houses:
Trick or Treat
at the Museum**

Farmers Branch Historical Park
4 - 6 pm
Free for kids 10 & under
fbhistoricalpark.com



October 21

**Food Truck Saturday @
Farmers Branch Market**

The Grove @ Mustang Crossing
9 am - 1 pm
farmersbranchmarket.com



For more information on
events & activities, visit

fbparksandrec.com

BOND ELECTION

NOVEMBER 2017 · YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE

Residents to Vote on Bond Issue in November

This November residents will be asked to consider three quality-of-life bond proposals

Pike Street/Station Area Improvement Bond - \$4 Million

Approval of this bond would allow infrastructure improvements to create a new streetscape on Pike Street from I-35E to Bee Street, a key piece to bringing the City's Station Area to life. The plan includes creating connectivity with a more walkable, visually appealing street that would include new pad site opportunities for future restaurants, retail or entertainment venues. Some of the improvements would include 10 foot side walks, crosswalks, pedestrian courtyard/plaza, gateway feature, ornamental street lighting, Benches and bike racks, landscaping, angled parking, and new street pavement.

Connecting Neighborhoods with Trails and Sidewalks Bond - \$7 Million

Approval of this bond would allow for further implementation of the City's Trail Master Plan which prioritizes the creation of a more connected City with safer, walkable streets and recreational trails. This bond would focus on two main goals: First, improving the availability and quality of sidewalks in the central part of the City; and second, further implementing the John F. Burke Nature Preserve Master Plan with trails and amenities for groups and wildlife observation.

Residential Revitalization Bond - \$4 Million

Approval of this bond would allow for the continuation of the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the Demo/Rebuild Residential Incentive Program. The Demo/Rebuild Program allows the City to offer incentives to residents to demolish an existing home and build new homes in the City. The Neighborhood Revitalization program allows the City to identify and purchase properties that are either in major disrepair or strategic to new development and demolish and sell them on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) for residential redevelopment. Both of these programs improve neighborhood desirability, and increase property values which ultimately help bring more restaurant, retail and entertainment options to Farmers Branch.

What Will the Impact be on City Property Taxes?



About 2¢

=



\$28.84
PER YEAR

(calculations based on an average home price of \$175,000 with a \$35,000 homestead exemption)

If all three bonds are approved, Farmers Branch homeowners can expect an average annual estimated increase of **\$28.84** for these improvements to the City.

Estimated Tax Increase per Bond Project

Pike Street/Station Area Bond
\$4 Million = \$7.70 average annual increase

Trails and Sidewalks Bond
\$7 Million = \$13.44 average annual increase

Residential Revitalization Bond
\$4 Million = \$7.70 average annual increase

Total Average Increase of \$28.84 Per Year



**CAST YOUR
VOTE
THIS NOVEMBER**

EARLY VOTING

October 23 - November 3

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, November 7

Dates subject to change per
Dallas County Elections

VOTER REGISTRATION

**Last day to register to vote is
Tuesday, October 10**

Residents can register to
vote or check their voter
registration by visiting
dallascountyvotes.org.

STAY CONNECTED

STAY INFORMED

VOTEFBTX.COM
2017 Bond Election Details

BRANCH REVIEW

Monthly print newsletter
delivered in water bills

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farmersbranchtx.gov



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BRANCH**

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